

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4850

1. Name

Historic 502 - 508 South Bradford Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 502 - 508 South Bradford Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			X private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number
city, town state & zip code telephone

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of four two-story, two-bay wide early Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and simple, scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built by John W. Randolph and George W. Donohue, who also built the other houses in this block. The houses retain their original brick facades, which have been painted, and evidence remains that their basements were originally painted white, to imitate the marble used in more expensive houses.

The houses are two stories in height, only 11' wide (11'3" for the end houses), and occupy lots 75' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. The basement area was painted white, to imitate marble, as was common in houses of this type. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by simple scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves and turnings. Or, supported by simple grooved modillions. The tall, narrow window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels and scroll-sawn tympanums. Several of the original 2/2 sash survive. The sills are wood. The single light doorway transom is decorated by a cut-work band of scallops. The houses sit on high basements, lit by a double-light sash, also with a scroll-sawn tympanum. Each house was originally reached by four wooden steps.

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8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates 1870

Builder/Architect John W. Randolph and George W. Donohue

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. The houses were built by John W. Randolph and George W. Donohue, who also built all of the other houses in this block, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900.

The land originally belonged to the Patterson family as part of their 18th century estate, which also included the land given by the family to the city for Patterson Park. In the late 1860s the Patterson heirs began developing this block by leasing parcels to Randolph and Donohue, who built similar, but slightly wider, houses on the south side of Eastern Ave., the north side of Fleet St., the west side of Montford Ave. and the east side of Patterson Park Ave. They sold most of the houses to mainly German-American semi-skilled tradesmen and laborers employed in nearby factories, who received mortgages from a variety of local building and loans, many of them sponsored by the German community.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

Name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:

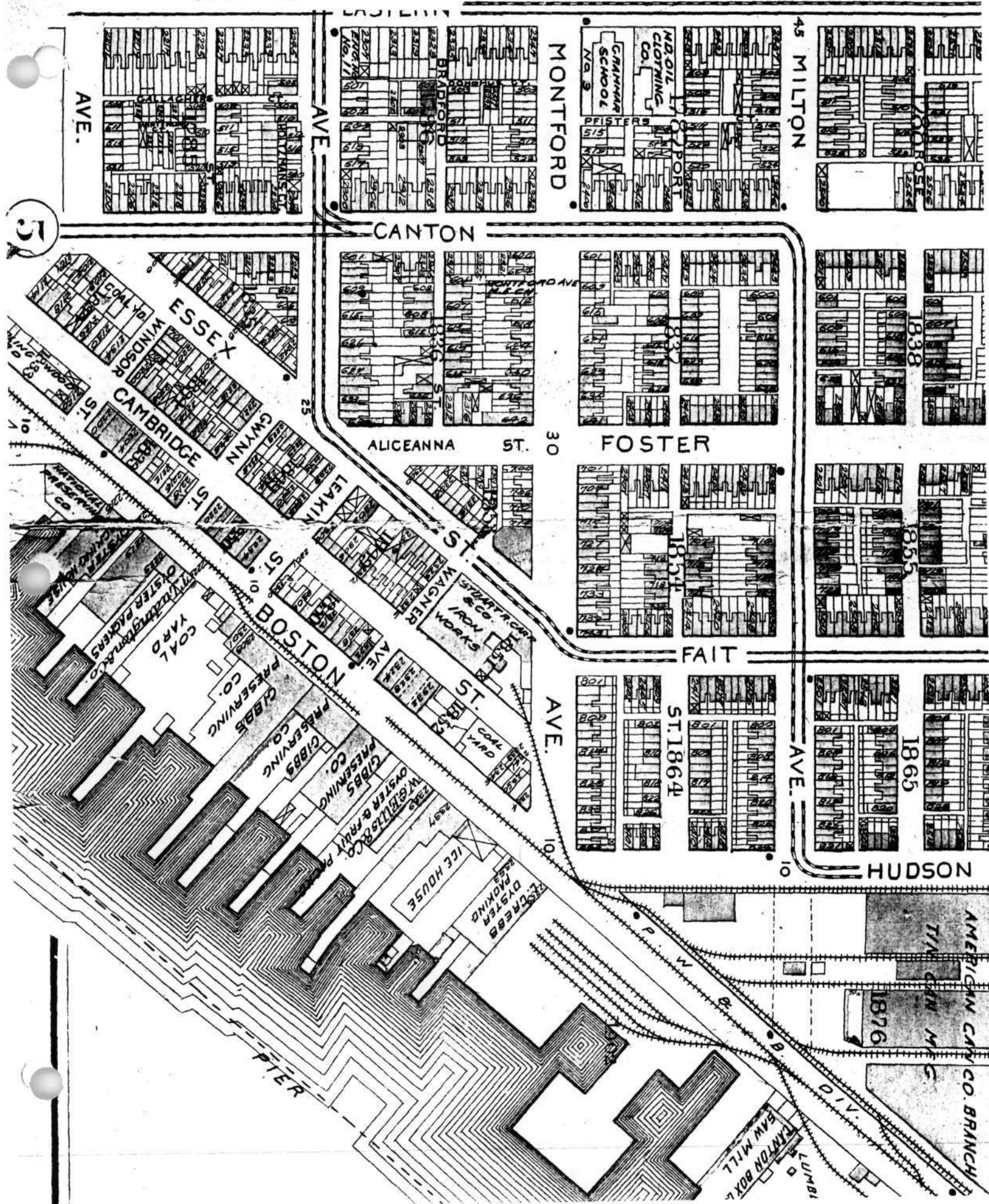
DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023

3ALTO. MD



B-4850
502-508 S. Bradford Street
Block 1786 Lots 076-079
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-4F50

502-508

S. Bradford St.

BALTO. MD

M. HAYWARD

6/00

MD SADO

1/1

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